

Message Text

SECRET

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9592

S E C R E T MANILA 16266

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FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: A. MANILA 16239 B. STATE 273578 C. MANILA 16218

1. THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME DRAFT TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE FOR COMMENT. IT OBVIOUSLY CROSSED WITH REF A WHICH CONTAINS MY OWN SUGGESTIONS FOR THE TEXT.

2. IT WILL BE CLEAR FROM COMPARISON OF TEXTS THAT WE ARE BOTH ON SAME WAVELENGTH. I WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATELY MODEST, HOWEVER, IF I FAILED TO STATE THAT I PREFER MY OWN VERSION. THIS IS NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR REASONS OF AMOUR PROPRE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF NUANCES I HAVE BUILT INTO MY TEXT WHICH MORE SENSITIVELY REFLECT THE LOCAL SCENE.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BUMPF IN PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF MY DRAFT, EMPTY AS IT IS OF SUBSTANCE, WILL BE TREATED HERE AS A GREAT SHOW OF STATESMANSHIP BY PRESIDENT FORD AND WILL EARN HIM MANY KUDOS. SUCH WORDS AS "RESPECT, DIGNITY, EQUALITY" ARE CLICHE CODE WORDS WHICH IT IS ALWAYS WISE TO CARESS WHEN IN MANILA.

4. SIMILARLY, THE TREATMENT I HAVE GIVEN SECURITY MATTERS IN PARAGRAPHS 6, 7, AND 8 IS MORE FINELY TUNED THAN IT

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PAGE 02 MANILA 16266 190716Z

IS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT. I DON'T BELIEVE WE WILL

GET AWAY WITH BROAD AND GENERALIZED TREATMENT OF THESE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE SPECIFICS BUT FORWARD BY THE FILIPINOS IN REF C (WHICH ALSO APPARENTLY CROSSED WITH REF B). THE BROAD STROKE APPROACH WOULD RESULT IN A GREAT AMOUNT OF STERILE NEGOTIATION ABOUT THESE TEXTS BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT. THIS IRRITATION COULD BE REDUCED (BUT NOT ELIMINATED) BY LANGUAGE MORE CLOSELY ATTUNED TO THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE PHILIPPINE PAPER. EVEN AS IT STANDS, MY DRAFT DOES NOT RPT NOT ACCOMMODATE POINT 2 IN THE PHILIPPINE TEXT ABOUT FOREIGN GROUND TROOPS, A POINT MARCOS WILL OBVIOUSLY WISH TO MAKE AND ONE WE CAN NOT RPT NOT REASONABLY DENY HIM.

5. FINALLY, JUST ONE COMMENT ON STYLE. FIRST PARAGRAPH IN DEPARTMENT'S TEXT SMACKS VERY MUCH OF TYPE OF STATEMENT WHICH ALWAYS LEADS OFF A COMMUNIST COMMUNIQUE. I HAVE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM WITH IT, BUT I FEEL IT DOES REPRESENT A STYLISTIC SCHISTOSOMIASIS WITH ORIGINS IN SHANGHAI.

6. IN VIEW OF THESE VARIOUS OBSERVATIONS, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND A REWRITE OF THE COMMUNIQUE, DRAWING MORE HEAVILY ON REF A, AND INDICATING SOME ATTENTION TO FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY FILIPINOS IN REF C. IT WOULD BE MOST IMPRUDENT TO BRUSH THEIR LANGUAGE ENTIRELY ASIDE, BECAUSE THEY CLEARLY TRIED, BY THEIR "FAST FOOTWORK," TO GET THE FIRST PAPER ON THE TABLE AND HAVE IT GIVEN SOME STATUS.

7. SIMILARLY, WHILE I THOROUGHLY AGREE WITH THE APPROACH EMBODIED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF REF B, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY TO BE AWARE IN ADVANCE THAT MARCOS AND HIS CABINET CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ISSUES IN QUITE SPECIFIC TERMS, NOT SO MUCH AS SUBSTITUTE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IN ORDER TO TRY TO OBTAIN SYMPATHETIC REACTIONS IN PRINCIPLE WHICH WOULD CLEARLY INFLUENCE THOSE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

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